



Monday, June 22, 2015

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

On June 17th, an unvaccinated child visiting from another state was evaluated in the Martha's Vineyard Emergency Department and diagnosed with measles.

While the child was immediately identified and subsequently isolated from the community, we know that individuals on the island were exposed to the virus during a phase of the illness in which the patient is infectious but has no symptoms. Known times and dates of exposures are listed below. Other exposures are likely to have occurred. The patient is considered to have been infectious from Monday 6/8/15 through Wednesday 6/17/15.

Known Times and Dates of Exposure:

- West Tisbury Public Library **June 8** from 11:00 AM – 3:00 PM.
- Aquinnah Library Tuesday on **June 9th** from 3:00 PM - 5:30 PM. and Thursday June 11 from 3:30 - 6:30
- Martha's Vineyard Airport Laundromat in West Tisbury on **Friday June 12** from 1pm-5 pm.
- Sharky's Cantina in Oak Bluffs Tuesday on **June 16** 7:30 - 10:30
- Ryan's Family Amusements in Oak Bluffs on **June 16** 5:30 – 9:30 PM (closes at midnight)

People who were at these locations during the exposure period, who have not been vaccinated, were not born before 1957, or have not had measles in the past, or do not have blood work indicating immunity to the disease should contact their Primary Care Physician for further instructions.

Vaccination Clinic: The Martha's Vineyard Hospital will be holding a Measles Immunization Clinic in the Doctor's wing of the old Hospital on **Wednesday, June 24th from 5pm to 9pm**. It will be free of charge. ***All people under the age of 58 who have not been vaccinated, have not had measles in the past, or do not have blood work indicating immunity to the disease should attend the vaccination clinic at the Martha's Vineyard Hospital.***

What is measles? Measles is a very contagious disease that usually lasts a week or two. It can cause serious problems like ear infections, pneumonia, swelling of the brain in some people, especially pregnant women, infants, and those with weakened immune systems. Adults are also at increased risk for severe disease and may need to be hospitalized due to complications. As it is a virus, antibiotics will not help treat this disease. Vaccination and precautions to prevent the disease are the first line of defense. Once you have the disease, only supportive care is given while your body deals with the disease.

What are the symptoms? Measles looks and feels like a cold at first. A cough, high fever, runny nose, and red, watery eyes are common. These symptoms start about ten days after infection. A few days later, a red blotchy rash starts on the face first, and then spreads to the rest of the body.

How is measles spread? The virus that causes measles lives in the nose and throat and is sprayed into the air when an infected person coughs or talks. Other people nearby can then inhale the virus. Measles is very infectious and can stay in the air for up to two hours after the contagious person has left the room. Touching tissues or sharing a cup used by someone with measles also spreads the virus. People with measles are infectious for 4 days prior to rash onset, until 4 days after onset. If someone is susceptible to measles, they usually show symptoms 10-14 days after exposure.

IF YOU DEVELOP SYMPTOMS OF MEASLES DO NOT GO TO YOUR DOCTOR'S OFFICE OR THE HOSPITAL

Call your Primary Care Doctor for further instructions

or

Contact the Massachusetts Department of Public Health **617-983-6800**

or

Contact The Martha's Vineyard Hospital Measles Hotline at **508-957-0117**

If you feel that it is a medical emergency, call 911

More information can be found online at either the Massachusetts Department of Public health, <http://www.mass.gov/eohhs/gov/departments/dph/> or on the Centers for Disease Control website, <http://www.cdc.gov/measles/index.html>

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